

Future of Laptop Program Uncertain

With fewer eligible students participating, administrators weigh cost of laptops for everyone

By Jay Weiler

As a three-year lease with Lenovo comes to an end, Concordia administrators are in discussions concerning the future of the laptop program for students. The program—in which all traditional undergraduate students are eligible to receive a laptop provided by the university—has been a staple at Concordia for 15 years.

“The university expects us to make a wise decision about our technology,” said Jonathan Breitbarth, director of computer services. “Whenever our lease runs out, we have to ask a few questions. Do we continue on this route? Is longevity a good enough reason to continue the program?”

A number of factors will influence Concordia’s decision on continuing the laptop program. In the current academic year, 25 percent of eligible students did not take the laptop provided by the university. This is the highest number since the beginning of the program, and the trend has continued upward over the past few years.

The ways that technology interacts with higher education is vastly different than fifteen years ago. With an explosion of choices in the marketplace, most people have a personal preference when it comes to their technology leading to a “bring your own device” mentality—a policy that many businesses have adopted. Breitbarth estimates that most campuses now need to prepare for up to seven wireless capable devices per person. Strengthening the network infrastructure to support this many devices could be a key reason to divert funds.

Additionally, the rise of cloud-based computing (i.e. Google Apps) decreases the necessity of university-provided technology, as students can now access software downloads, personal files, and even on-campus printer servers directly from personal laptops.

A number of alternatives have already been identified if Concordia chooses to not renew the lease with Lenovo. A popular policy at many universities and the most likely alternative is providing the purchase of a laptop through the university bookstore; through this process, Concordia would endorse a few different laptop models and give increased financial aid to help cover the cost. Other options include installing a handful of computer labs around campus, extending the lease on the current laptop model, or simply requiring students to bring their own laptops.

No matter what the university de-

cides, Breitbarth stresses that it will be in the students’ best interests. “We need to look at how money is being used and that we’re not spending it ‘just because,’” he said. “There are implications from a tuition standpoint; if a quarter of our students aren’t participating in the program, is this a wise use of their money?”

Concordia plans on engaging students in the decision-making process through a survey of the student body and the relevant student senate advisory committee.

The official university decision is expected in late February or early March.



@CUtheSword



The Sword Newspaper



CSP.edu/Sword

Table of Contents

FRONT

- PAGE: Future of Laptop Program Uncertain
- Page 3: Muslim Journeys
UMOJA
- Page 4: Philip Hampton Appointed to Board of Urban Development
- Page 5: Downtown Minneapolis Parking Too Expensive for Employees
- Page 6: Student Senate Update
Pro Bono Athletics
- Page 7: Critical Thinking
Your Image Violates Facebook
- Page 8: Policy
Intelligence Before Beauty
- Page 9: Cross Country
Track Season Preview
- Page 10: Men's Basketball Preview
Women's Basketball Preview
- Page 11: Male Athlete of the Month
Female Athlete of the Month
- Page 12: Art Spotlight
Wadjda Movie Review
- Page 13: Nothing to Fear or Loathe
Christmas at Concordia
- Page 14: Movie Review: *Catching Fire*
Song of Ice and Fire
- Page 15: Music Spotlight
Theatre Spotlight
Sudoku
- Page 16: Christmas Wordsearch
Stress-Free Finals
December Wordsearch
Comic

THIS PAPER IS A STUDENT PUBLICATION NOT AN OFFICIAL CONCORDIA PUBLICATION
AND THE VIEWS EXPRESSED ARE NOT NECESSARILY THAT OF THE UNIVERSITY, BUT OF THE
WRITERS AND STAFF INVOLVED IN THE PUBLICATION.



Dear Concordia students, faculty, staff, and community members,



People seek narratives. The desire for story and structure is in our blood. From birth we are told stories that have a beginning, middle, and end, and from an extremely young age, we are able to tell our own. Ask a five-year old to make up a story, and they will regale you with a fanciful tale of dragons and princesses and explosions and race cars. Ask an adult and they may tell you of love or regret or simply of a fun night at the pub with their best friends.

I think that it's this simple desire for clean stories that spurred people to invent the first calendar (and to mark the passage of time, but let's just go with my theory for a bit). Our current calendar splits up the year so cleanly, with a new beginning in January, a muggy middle in the summer months, and finally an ending marked with holidays and celebrations. Pay attention to

any website, magazine, or newspaper over the next few weeks and you will be overwhelmed with year-end lists and articles (my personal favorite was a "Year in Review: Celebrity Drama"). The ending of another year gives us a neat way to package the events of the past twelve months as we seek patterns and meaning in our lives.

I see many similarities in the academic calendar. As we near the end of a semester, I've heard many things like, "I can't wait for this year to be over," and "Next semester will be so much better." While a new semester can be a fresh start for some, my experience suggests that habits from one semester carry into the next, especially between fall and spring. You will still be the same person on January 13 as you are on December 19. Think of how you feel on New Year's Day; though the calendar suggests something has changed, nothing feels different.

If you want to make a change, don't wait for a new year, a new semester, or even a new week; the change you want to make starts today.

Cheers,
Jay Weiler
Editor-in-Chief

THE SWORD STAFF

EDITOR IN CHIEF
Jay Weiler

NEWS EDITOR
Amal Younis

SPORTS EDITOR
Jake Loftus

ARTS AND VARIETY EDITOR
Rebecca McDermeit

PRODUCTION MANAGER
Amanda Och

PRODUCTION
Lauren Erath, Abby Landes, Anna Paulson, Phil Nomura

FACULTY ADVISOR
Eric Dregni

CONTRIBUTING WRITERS
Fartun Ahmed, Chris Anderson, Larisa Arnold, Maddie Austin, Hayley Bahnmann, Demetrius Beaver, Ben Berteau, Kayla Blair, Joshua Eckstein, Lauren Erath, Lehleth Garyu, Thomas Hansen, Greg Kaszubowski, Tony Kohanek, Ashley Kuehl, Grace Orwick, Anna Paulson, Tara Rupiper, Ren Sovannasoth, Meredith Wagner

Bridging Cultures Muslim Journeys

Persepolis: The Story of a Childhood

By Fartun Ahmed

The second discussion in the Bridging Cultures Bookshelf: Muslim Journeys series was held on campus two weeks ago. The audience was introduced to Marjane Satrapi's vivid recollections of her childhood in a graphic novel titled *Persepolis: The Story of a Childhood*. Satrapi is an author born in Rasht, Iran, but she fled to France to escape political repression. Satrapi is also the author of multiple other works, including *Embroideries* and *Monsters Are Afraid of the Moon*.

Persepolis is a coming-of-age story about a young girl living in Iran during a difficult revolution. She grows up being exposed to many violent and brutal political events that shape her views as she grows up. One key thing that Satrapi does in this novel is that she dispels the single view from which people see Iran. She introduces her readers to complex and multi-dimensional characters—one of them being herself.

Although this novel is told from the perspective of a young girl, the subject matter is quite deep and troubling; such is the nature of war and civil unrest. She discusses privilege and how it shapes the lives of the women around her. The reader sees this as she writes love letters for her family maid. When her father finds

this out, he makes sure this is known by the boy to whom the letters were written. This shows the paradox of power and privilege, where one struggles for freedom while oppressing those around him.

One of the greatest things about having women like Satrapi is that her voice allows for women around the world to gain ownership of their stories and their image in popular culture. In fact, Satrapi co-wrote and codirected the 2008 animated feature film version of *Persepolis*. Another great thing about Satrapi's presence is that it shows the struggles women around the world face in sharing their views, and the amount of repression women face—both in their native lands and in the west. Her book was not only banned in Iran, but it was also banned in the Chicago public schools last year.

Perhaps this story will allow our audience to understand the vices of the women around the world, and to gain appreciation for the boldness of women like Satrapi in sharing their stories. Be sure to join the next event in the series on February 11, 2014 at 7:00pm: a discussion of *House of Stone: A Memoir of Home, Family, and a Lost Middle East* by Anthony Shadid.

UMOJA

Unique Club Encourages Cultural Awareness

By Lehleih Garyu



There are many clubs and organizations at Concordia University, but none as distinctive as UMOJA (United Minds of Joint Action). UMOJA, previously known as BSU (Black Student Union) was founded in the 1970s, and the name was changed to UMOJA in the 1990s. This change occurred when a female student decided that such a powerful organization should not just represent African-American students, but rather all faces of the world. UMOJA's mission is to give all students cultural enlightenment and awareness. In doing this, UMOJA holds meetings and exciting events throughout the semester to entertain, socialize, and bring the student body together.

Some of their events like Open Mic, International Night, Nothing but The Nets, and other events have been a huge success for the student body at Concordia. With approximately 25 members, and an Executive board of 9 members, UMOJA is always planning the next big event. UMOJA not only appeals to the student body at Concordia, but also

within the community. In October, UMOJA went door-to-door and instead of using the traditional Halloween line "trick or treat" they screamed "here to feed." While others were asking for Halloween candy, UMOJA was donating canned goods to help prepare families for Thanksgiving.

Airrion Williams, current co-president of UMOJA has been a member for three years. When asked what it's like to be a member of UMOJA, Williams responded, "Our meetings are fun! We play games as an ice breaker, socialize a little to let our guards down, and then we plan and talk about events." UMOJA allows not just board members to plan events, but all members of the club. Everyone is involved. "Anybody can fit into our club, as long as they have cultural acceptance," said Williams. "Asians, blacks, whites, gays, and straight people: anybody can come! We want it to be reflective of everybody. I'd like to see more Caucasian students participating and taking ownership in UMOJA"

Something that differentiates UMOJA from other clubs and organizations is the fact that they have a "spiritual advisor." A spiritual advisor is someone who keeps open to every religion within the club. This year's Spiritual Advisor is Marcel Malekebu. Malekebu's main duty as Spiritual Advisor is to "facilitate the spiritual understanding and uplifting of the group and the individuals that comprise the group." Being a non-religious person himself, he still includes prayer, affirmation and trying to get everybody to see through more than just one lens. UMOJA represents many different students like Muslims, Buddhists, and atheists all with respect to Concordia's promise statement: "all are welcome." UMOJA's plans for the future include more attended events and the club being strengthened as a more effective student group. Williams particularly would like to see more Caucasian students participating and taking ownership in UMOJA. UMOJA meets bi-weekly every Wednesday at 6 P.M., on campus in the Graebner Memorial Chapel.

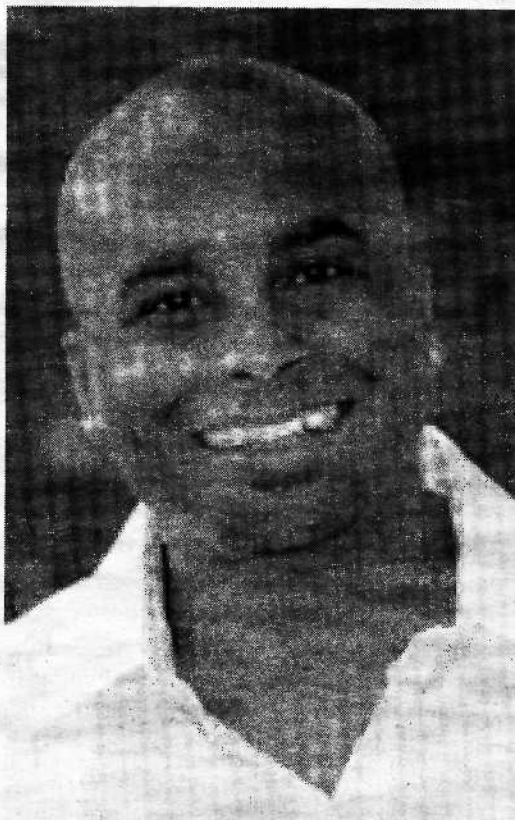
Philip Hampton Appointed to Board of Urban Development

By Greg Kaszubowski

A familiar face around Concordia has been chosen to take on a second post. Professor Philip Hampton, chair of the Finance Department at CSP, was appointed to the Urban Initiative Board by Minnesota Governor Mark Dayton. His term began in mid-October and will last until Jan. 2015. According to Hampton, the purpose of this board is to "promote minority business and encourage jobs and economic development in low income areas." This position will cover seven county metro areas: Anoka, Carver, Dakota, Hennepin, Ramsey, Scott, and Washington counties.

According to the Minnesota Statute, the Urban Initiative Board is created and consists of the commissioner of employment and economic development, the chair of the Metropolitan Council, and eight members from the general public appointed by the governor. Six of the public members must be representatives from minority business enterprises. No more than four of the public members may be of one gender. All public members must be experienced in business or economic development.

The board shall make urban challenge grants for use in low-income areas to nonprofit corpora-



tions to encourage private investment, to provide jobs for minority persons and others in low-income areas, to create and strengthen minority business enterprises, and to promote economic development in a low-income area. The board shall adopt rules to establish criteria for determining loan eligibility.

According to Hampton, "All the businesses are new." The main objective of this board is to encourage startups in current low income neighborhoods. It is also designed to increase local jobs to people in these neighborhoods. "This is not an urban gentrification project," said Hampton. "The purpose of this board is to create economic corridors, and have neighborhoods benefiting from the light rail."

Hampton is a graduate from Clark Atlanta University in Atlanta, GA. He also holds an MBA in international business with a focus in finance from the University of St. Thomas. Hampton's professional experience is an analyst with Piper Jaffray's public finance department, statistical analyst with U.S. Bank Corporation, and mergers and acquisitions manager with Metris Companies, Inc.

"I just want to serve my community, and I'm enjoying the opportunity," Hampton said.

Downtown Minneapolis Parking: Too Expensive for Employees

By Larisa Arnold

Forcing citizens to pay for parking in downtown Minneapolis is acceptable since they may not visit the city often, but it is unfair to make employees in that area pay as well. Workers should not have to take out money from their own paychecks to be eligible to park their cars; it should be the company's responsibility to provide space for their employees. This strategy will not only save money, but will diminish the stress placed upon workers.

Parking expenses of downtown Minneapolis parking areas are absolutely ridiculous. \$5 is the overall average amount one would spend to park, but of course there are limited hours to the amount one would pay. Meters are posted along sidewalks of the city ranging from two to four hours for the amount of \$2 to \$4. This becomes a hassle, because workers may constantly have to run out to their car before time expires to feed their meter more money to prevent being ticketed, or towed. Who knows how often the parking police check if people paid, or if they check vehicles at all anyway?

Another option of parking would be to provide space in bigger lots that surround the city. General prices are zero to two hours for \$2, three to ten hours for \$4, and 24 hours for \$50, and monthly costs are estimated between \$100-200. Depending on the space, costs may either be higher or the same. However, these lots tend to fill quickly especially if there is a sporting event occurring. For example, Vikings games create a stir of traffic downtown. All spaces would be unavailable,

and if there was an opening the lots would automatically be set to the event prices, which range from \$20 to \$50. Workers would have to pay event parking prices rather than regular prices which is a rip off. Employees should not have to face the challenges of paying more on days in which events are held. Companies should be responsible to provide available space for the employees so they would not have this issue.

It is understandable that the city of Minneapolis wants to make money, but the expensive parking rates are greedy. I currently work at the Guthrie Theater about three to four days a week, and find myself spending at least \$24 every two weeks on parking. The Guthrie does not provide workers with free access in parking, but does have a monthly payment option, which began with about \$40 and is now roughly about \$70 per month just on parking expenses. The payment of the ramp across the street has increased for the Guthrie staff due to Minneapolis having the desire to charge more.

It is overwhelming for me to take money out of my personal check knowing the money could be used for something of better value. I cannot imagine how a full-time worker downtown feels. "It is expensive for the salaries being paid, and it angers me that companies don't provide a parking permit to their employees," co-worker Ellie Lockman, expresses. It is clear that I am not the only one that feels this way. Employees need a break, and it all begins with providing them their own spaces for parking. It's that simple!

Student Senate Update

By Joshua Eckstein

This update is a little shorter than previous ones, but we assure you that Student Senate is still hard at work. It has only been a couple of weeks since the last update was written, and a large part of that time was spent on setting up the various committees in senate. Student Senate has various committees, made up of senators, which handle with various departments on campus. Some work with the nurse to deal with health and wellness issues, some work with Sodexo to make the dining experience better for students, and some deal with gaining information from the student body to help with various proposals. There are committees for these, and many more, aspects here on campus and we have got the momentum going in getting these committees to making Concordia a better place for you. Remember, if you have a question or want to make a proposal to Student Senate, contact any Student Senators that you may know. We are here



to make this campus the best place for students, and we listen to and seriously consider every action that gets put in front of us. From all of Student Senate to you, have a great rest of the semester.

Pro Bono Athletics

By Ben Berteau

Athletes must be paid the respect they are due. In our current educational system, they are asked to balance educational requirements, practices, meetings, and many other obligations that take up the most precious resource a college student possesses: time. This is no easy task, and Concordia athletes have displayed yet again in fall 2013 that they are amongst the best in the NSIC in doing so, with 39 athletes across five Concordia athletic teams being recognized amongst the NSIC Fall All-Academic Team.

It must also be said that athletics make a sizable impact on not only student life, but also on community life around Concordia. They offer a public venue for students to display and exercise school pride and are representatives of Concordia in their travels across the nation, bringing greater recognition and accolades to the school.

It is out of this complex situation that arguments for and against compensation beyond scholarships for collegiate athletes arise. If athletes must give their time to athletics and money is being made by organizations like the NCAA as a result of the competition student-athletes create, shouldn't students receive a portion of that profit?

My response is that those who support such compensation must extend this philosophy of compensating student contributors to the university to the rest of their non-athletically involved peers. What is to be said of the music club or UMOJA Presidents, or even club members themselves? It is because of their commitment to fostering student involvement in these specific areas that the Concordia community benefits. What about art students whose creativity allows Concordia to open its art gallery to the general public? Surely they must be compensated for the work they do.

This gets to the core of the fundamental issue: a broken system that pits competing priorities against one another. In our American educational system, we have done our student-athletes a disservice by linking athletic performance (that has the potential to lead to professional participation) with commitment to education. Unlike the European system in professional sports such as soccer, where participants at as early an age as ten can be signed by a professional athletic organization and focus primarily on athletic development, while being educated becomes a secondary priority. The priority is clear: the team has invested its public profit into its athletes and has the primary objective of creating revenue based on the athletic performance of its players, compensating them based on performance. When priorities are clear and participants are compensated financially, the voluntary choice to make academic education a secondary priority becomes easier.

Clearly this is not the case in our environment. We force participants who excel in their given sport to attend an institution whose primary

objective is not to help them further their gifts for financial or professional gain, but to place their athletic goals behind that of the primary academic educational goals of the institution. Athletes understand and knowingly accept when they sign their letters of intent to commit to an athletic program that they will likely not be paid and may not even receive scholarship funds. It is certainly understandable for an athlete to look at the commitment their sport requires, and eliminate other options such as part-time work, or even freedom to study as long or often as they'd like. We must remember, though, that these are voluntary choices, no different than a student taking an involved role in a club or academic program.

On a financial level, schools must carefully analyze the financial aspects of offering athletic programs, comparing the profit generated from ticket sales, concessions, merchandise, sponsorships, etc. with the cost of paying coaches, trainers, facilities, equipment, etc. for each of its teams. This becomes especially important for smaller schools like Concordia, which have less opportunity to generate outside revenue to fund the programs they offer. Division I schools such as Ohio State, LSU, Georgia, and others make hundreds of millions of dollars annually because of their programs, according to a 2012 cost-benefit analysis of the top 120 Division I athletic programs by ESPN, but consider the fact that tens of thousands of fans attend their football games each week often at premium ticket prices.

Certainly this is not the case for Concordia. While we have a phenomenally talented and successful volleyball team, the Gangelhoff Center is built to support only so many spectators. Proponents of athlete compensation must consider implications like these when making hierarchical arguments about the amount that athletic programs contribute financially to their institution, especially smaller schools such as Concordia.

There do not appear to be easy answers to this certainly complex situation. Until a solution can be found where athletics are removed from an academic environment that asks athletes to prioritize education over (or perhaps alongside) athletic progress, understandable claims will be made by those who participate in these programs to compensate them financially beyond that of scholarships. Unfortunately, this philosophy often excludes other non-athletically involved student volunteers whose situations are similar. If this philosophy is applied equally, and all students are compensated who volunteer to beneficial programs, a financially unsustainable system will be created. For all these reasons, we must continue to regard athletics as a voluntary program to be participated in freely. Let's allow our student-athletes to pursue athletic goals, but not in a financially compensated system that would regard them more highly than their equally philanthropic peers.

Do a Little Critical Thinking, Please

By Meredith Wagner

In the last few months, numerous allegations have been brought against the Salvation Army charity organization claiming that their prejudices against the LGBT (Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender) population has resulted in firings, unequal employment options, and verbal abuse in the workplace. This in turn has resulted in multiple articles advising readers to avoid any aspect of the Salvation Army organization in their charity donations.

Yes, I think it is right to boycott their stores, donation buckets, and soup kitchens if the Salvation Army is truly discriminating against people in the LGBT community. Denying job benefits, human services, or even job applications on the basis of sexual orientation is not ethical, and should be lobbied against. I should think that we all know that skin color, race, or sexual preferences have absolutely no correlation with work productivity or intelligence level.

However, lobbying against the Salvation Army strictly because of a company's beliefs is incredibly ignorant. There has been a ridiculous amount of twisting words and statements in the aforementioned articles to make it seem as if the Salvation Army personally detests every individual in the LGBT community, when in all reality they are just practicing a large aspect of their religion. The Salvation Army is based out of the Evangelical Catholic church, where one of their chief doctrines is the belief in one union between a man and a woman. While this certainly should not influence their hiring and service practices, it needs to be realized that just because their belief is not mainstream in today's society, it is not "wrong".

In just an hour and a half of research, I found a grand total of one fact in articles about this situation that is backed up by legitimate statistics (ie: ones funded and conducted by a national organization,

lawsuits and court cases, or statements from the Salvation Army website/CEO). The majority of what I have found is impassioned individuals ranting about rumors or stories they have heard, when they have clearly not stopped to think if these were legitimate sources, or how they might be biased because of the source's beliefs and personal practices.

An hour and a half of research is not enough to cover every single article and story concerning the Salvation Army vs. LGBT rights issue, but if the top five to ten hits I look at for each of my searches is sourceless, then maybe a bigger issue has arisen.

In today's world, especially concerning controversial and political issues, I believe that the art of "taking a step back" has been lost. We see one small part of an issue presented by someone we agree with and literally take off, not just running, but sprinting with our so called "ideals", spewing thoughts and opinions on anything that disagrees with our specific stance. We think that because

someone does not agree with our "correct" ideals and opinions, that they are wrong and, dare I say, close-minded. Funny; we live up to the definition of close-minded in our so-called "open-mindedness".

Thus, I challenge you to mentally "take a step back", and do some critical thinking about your beliefs on controversial subjects. Where do they come from? Who do they come from? What are the facts and figures that back up your thoughts and opinions? Get rid of the blanket phrase "Studies show..." and do your own research. Is your "open-mindedness" limited to those ideals which are similar to yours? We can learn to see beyond the tip of our noses and realize the beauty that can be found in the incredible amount of variety present within our humanity.



Your Image Violates Facebook Policy

By Ashley Kuehl

Photographs and video recordings of breast feeding are banned from being posted on Facebook even as beheadings are now acceptable to post on Facebook's newsfeed. This is the result of Facebook's change in policy, which was temporarily blocked since May 2013 as a result of psychological damage reported by viewers of the content.

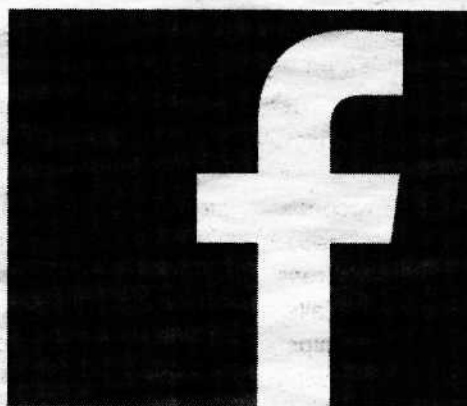
Facebook's current policy states that it prohibits the use of images that glorify violence, nudity, and drug use. Yet according to Facebook officials videos of beheadings are allowed because they are being used to condemn violence, create awareness, and promote advocacy in a social media setting. The videos in question are of people whose last seconds of life are captured on film. Another issue is that Facebook is allowing these videos to be posted to the site without any warning of the graphic content that the video may contain, unlike how traditional news outlets would before displaying these images.

Although Facebook may be lifting this ban regarding the beheadings to generate traffic, the media site has faced criticism internationally by individuals disclosing their disgust over Facebook's latest policy decision. It seems as though Facebook is becoming very nit-picky over their own policy, allowing images and recordings of violence that they deem acceptable, even if those images are likely to scar a person's psyche. Facebook's policy is hypocritical in the sense that a mother breastfeeding their child is deemed more offensive even though it is a natural practice as op-

posed to seeing a woman's head being cut off. Even if the option to view these videos is ultimately up to the user, as a social media platform that allows teenagers as young as the age of thirteen to use the site, it is their duty to regulate what is allowed to be posted and distributed to others or at least display a warning before the video plays.

Social media is a blessing in the sense that it garners public attention and gains support for causes that may not have seen change or action happen. For example, social media helped lead to the trial of George Zimmerman, who killed unarmed teenager Trayvon Martin. So I have to ask: what's the real threat, Facebook? Is it coming across a picture of a woman breastfeeding a newborn baby or having users witness a brutal murder? I stress that violence is wrong and getting the word out about the horrific events that are occurring internationally is important, but why not reform these policies so that users may be able to advocate their personal beliefs such as breastfeeding?

With the new policy, Facebook is trying to make their site a place where people can talk about current events, breaking news, and controversial topics. But if the site is going to pick and choose which discussions or images should be posted, maybe Facebook is not the proper site to allow these videos to be posted. This new change in policy has and will create more distance between users who do not wish to see these images in their newsfeed than they would in producing results for change.



Intelligence Before Beauty

Should the U.S. Ban Child Beauty Pageants?

By Thomas Hansen

This past September, the French parliament voted to ban child beauty pageants for girls younger than 16 in France. Former Prime Minister Nicolas Sarkozy's report, "Against Hyper-Sexualization: A New Fight for Equality," passed with 196 votes to 146. According to The Washington Post, it will not become a law unless the National Assembly passes it in November. If the bill passes, people who fail to abide by the new law can face up to two years in prison and \$40,000 in fines. Should the U.S. follow in France's footsteps and ban child beauty pageants? I believe we should. The psychological effects on these young girls are substantial.

I strongly believe that young women should be raised to value intelligence over beauty. These young girls are thrown into these child pageants by careless mothers who are vicariously living through their children. Instead of focusing on teaching their daughters to read and write, these mothers are forcing their daughters to get spray tans, wear partial dental pieces, and gyrate around the stage singing to a Britney Spears song. These mothers are preparing their young daughters for a future of eating disorders and other psychological issues.

Mark Sichel, a New York City psychotherapist and author, says that, "Girls have plenty of time before facing the idealized and superficial images of women our society demands. They should focus more on excelling in school." These mothers should let their daughters be children and not introduce them into the superficial world with which our society is so obsessed.

According to Dr. Martina M. Cartwright, an adjunct professor at the University of Arizona, "Participation in activities that focus on physical appearance at an early age can influence teen and/or adult self-esteem, body image and self-worth. Issues with self-identity after a child 'retires' from the pageant scene in their teens are not uncommon. Struggles with perfection, dieting, eating disorders and body image can take their toll in adulthood." She goes on to explain that, "It appears that the hypercritical environment of their youth produces a drive towards the unattainable goal of physical perfection."

According to ANAD, the National Association of Anorexia Nervosa and Associated Disorders, "95% of those who have eating disorders are between the ages of 12 and 25.8." ANAD pointed out that over 80 percent of children are afraid of being fat. Young girls in pageants are introduced to these unrealistic standards at an even younger

age. Even after an individual overcomes an eating disorder, the effects can catch up with them later in life. "20% of people suffering from anorexia will prematurely die from complications related to their eating disorder, including suicide and heart problems," states ANAD.

So why would mothers risk their daughters developing these psychological issues? Dr. Cartwright points out a disturbing fact that, "Money, ratings and attention fuel the pageant/dance media machine with parents and adults reaping the benefits." Not only do these parents vicariously live through their daughters but they also gain financial benefits as well.

Dr. Mike Bishop, a childhood behavioral health psychologist states, "Self-worth should not be tied to competitions. Toddlers are not old enough to make an informed decision whether they should compete. Nor are they able to separate the competition from reality."

Some people argue that beauty pageants help young girls build confidence and strong self-esteem. They also claim that the pageants are quality time for families to spend together. I completely disagree. I think family time should not be spent teaching children to be superficial, rather families should spend time teaching their children morals and values that will help them have a more successful future. Beauty pageants may help girls create confidence as children, but like Dr. Bishop said, these young girls cannot separate the pageants from reality. They grow up to have poor self-esteems, body image issues, and no confidence.

I believe the U.S. should follow France in setting a new standard for young women. By banning these pageants, we would teach young girls to value their education. It would also teach girls to measure their self-worth off of their morals, values and intelligence, not how "beautiful" they look with artificial tans, hair, teeth and eyelashes. The U.S. could see a great change in young girls' perspectives on life if we focus on teaching them what truly matters. By banning these pageants, we could see a decrease in depression, eating disorders and self-identity issues in young girls. The U.S. needs less Honey Boo Boos, a TLC Toddlers and Tiaras child star, and more Tesca Fitzgeralds, a young girl who started college at age 12 at Portland State University. She recently graduated at age 16 and is starting her Ph.D. in cognitive science and human robotic interaction at the Georgia Institute of Technology. She is expected to receive her Ph.D. by age 22.

Cross Country

A Season in Review

By Ren Souvannasoth

The Concordia University Cross country team wrapped up another successful season on the 9th of November. The season saw many accomplishments for the men's and women's teams, as well as individual achievements. They attained personal records, course records, and many other accolades throughout the season. The cross country team opened their season in Wisconsin with the Cross Country Invitational and they finished the season with a trip to Sioux Falls, SD where they competed in the NCAA Central Region Championships.

Many members of the cross country team consider their showing at the region championships to be a highlight of their season. Multiple individuals accomplished personal records and the team had an overall positive end to the season. Sophomore Maggie Marcus talked about racing with her teammate, junior Anna Shield, "Anna is a great runner and I was excited to be able to run with her for her last Cross Country race; because I was able to stay with her, I 'PR'ed by about 16 seconds."

Josh Smith has battled with injuries this year but overcame those injuries to place first at the St. Cloud State Showdown in

Sauk Rapids, Minnesota. It was the first time a Concordia cross country runner has won a race since 2010. Smith and Nic Rudolph, who finished a close second, helped the men's team win their head-to-head matchup against the St. Cloud State team. This team effort was one of the high points of the season, for the men especially, because they had not had a team victory since 1998.

The cross country team has the smallest roster of any Concordia sports teams, and their team atmosphere is unique because of that. The men and women's teams are very close, and their Head Coach, Jonathan Breitbarth, often describes them as a family. Like a family, the cross country team cares about each other's success. Both teams have experienced many achievements this year and that has only helped them grow closer as a team. Anna Shield summed up this sentiment, and the season: "We encouraged each other through workouts and came together as a team, succeeded in difficult workouts, recovered from perceived failures, and overall discovered ways we could each succeed that we had not expected until we put in the work and gained confidence in ourselves."

Track Season Preview

By Chris Anderson

Starting his second year as the Concordia track and field head coach, Sam Johnson is looking forward to an exciting 2013-14 season. Johnson says he finds the most enjoyment in the day-to-day practices and getting to work with athletes and observe their growth. Besides being so interested in the daily management with athletes, Johnson also feels transitioning better into the administrative side of his position this year.

With numbers for the year up on the men's side and many returners, Johnson said of the upcoming first meet, "I am excited to see how our athletes develop and achieve new personal bests on the track and in the field events over the course of our indoor and outdoor seasons." Moving upward from last season, Johnson is expecting to start moving up in rank within the competitors in the NSIC Conference, and foresees up to 20 points coming from the women's side at conference.

The pole-vaulting coach Phill Erickson is also very excited about his athletes' upcoming season. He believes five pole-vaulters this season could provincially qualify during the regular season, giving them a shot at the national competition. One of these pole-vaulters Esther Jandrich was just honored as one of Concordia's top four athletes. Besides the immense talent the team displays in athletics, last year's men's and women's teams also combined to have fourteen athletes on the 2012-2013 Division II Athletic Directors Association Academic Awards list.

This coaching staff is working with the athletes to create an exciting and positive atmosphere for the season moving forward as well as future years of the sport. Coach Johnson summed up his feelings saying, "The combination of the athlete's dedication and tutelage from our awesome coaching staff should result in continued improvement from last year's results."

2013-2014 Men's Basketball Preview

By Greg Kaszubowski

Head Men's Basketball Coach Kelly Boe is building himself a new team around the backcourt and last season's leading scorers in Terez Van Pelt and Cole Olstad. Look for this season to be an improvement from last year as Boe brings back starters like Van Pelt, Olstad, and Shea Mandli. Key additions to the front court and the growth of two freshman starters from last year have fans excited to see what the possibilities are this year. Look for the Golden Bears to transition out of a down year into a competitive team in the NSIC.

2012-13 Record: 9 - 18, NSIC 7-15

Coach: Kelly Boe

Coach Record: 100 - 93 at Concordia

St. Paul, 123 - 102 Career

Who's Out:

Last year was a tough seasons for Golden Bear fans. Coach Kelly Boe describes last year as a transition, saying, "It's always tough when you lose a group of upper classmen like we did." This year, Coach Boe loses seven players from last year including Isaiah Thomas, Zach Towle, Nicco Montgomery, DJ Lewis, Nick Mabbutt, and Josh Stockman. The Golden Bears will be looking to fill the void left by Thomas, as he was third in scoring last season 11.5 points per game.

Who's In:

Coach Boe brought in six new players, two that will be in the starting lineup. Chris Halvorson from the University of Minnesota, Keith Crockett from Dodge City Community College, David Stanley from UW River Falls, Travon Mitchell from Brown Mackie Junior College, Jake Ruhland from Ridgewater Community College, and 6'7 forward from Mahtomedi High School Anunwa Omot.

Who to Watch:

In the offseason, "Big" Mike Yahnke obviously hit the gym

ORDER ONLINE

3AM 7 DAYS A WEEK



SAUSAGE & PEPPERONI

THE CHINA TASTE

↑ ↑ ↑ ↑ ↑ ↑ ↑ ↑

651-221-9000

1154 GRAND AVE • ST. PAUL

TOPPERS

PIZZA

DELIVERING THE GOODS™



coming back bigger and stronger. According to Boe, Yahnke is about 15 pounds heavier and has been impressive in offseason workouts. Look for two transfers to crack the starting lineup, the best bet being Chris Halvorson who comes from a Division I school in his last year of eligibility. Transfer Keith Crockett is also a strong possibility to start for the Golden Bears. Look for Van Pelt and Olstad to be solid leaders this year and putting up equal or better numbers this year. Travon Mitchell has also been impressive in offseason workouts.

Final Projection:

Coach Boe said, "If we stay healthy this year, we can compete in the NSIC." As for a possible prediction for the season, Coach Boe said, "You won't be disappointed. Give us a chance this year, you'll like what you see."

Projected Starting Five:

Keith Crockett,	Junior,	Guard,	Dodge City CC
Terez Van Pelt,	Junior,	Guard,	19.3 points per game
Cole Olstad,	Junior,	Guard,	15.1 points per game
Chris Halvorson,	Senior,	Forward,	transfer from Minnesota
Shea Mandli,	Sophomore,	Forward,	4.3 points per game.

2013-2014 Women's Basketball Preview

By Greg Kaszubowski

Coming off of a 23-win season and NCAA postseason appearance, the Concordia women's basketball team returns nine student-athletes, including four starters to the court in 2013-14, and are poised for a return to the national stage. This winter will be the fourteenth on the sidelines for Head Coach Paul Fessler, with a record of 278 - 119 as Golden Bear's Head Coach.

After losing key player Amanda Poke, the Golden Bears have been active on the recruiting trail bringing in three transfer guards Ameshia Kearney, Diamond Lane, and Voneisha Harris as well as two freshmen recruits, guards Mishayla Jones and Lauren Shifflett.

Backcourt:

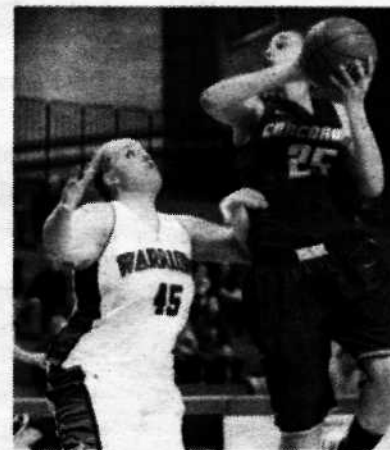
Back to run the point for the Golden Bears is senior Rachel Hansen. Hansen led the Golden Bears with 5.3 assists per game and a 1.5 assist-to-turnover ratio. She was the Golden Bears second-leading scorer at 10.9 points per game while shooting 40.3 percent from the field and 78.3 percent from the free-throw line. Hansen, who rounded out her stat line with 5.3 rebounds per outing, was a Second Team Academic All-NCIS-10 selection in 2012-13.

Senior Carissa Wolyniek will join Hansen in the starting backcourt scoring 10.1 points per game last season. An NSIC All-Academic started 28 of 30 games draining 39.1 percent of her attempts from distance in 2012-13 while knocking down 38.0 percent of three pointers and shot 83.8 percent from the charity stripe. Wolyniec added 3.4 rebounds and 1.3 assists per game for the Golden Bears last winter.

Tierra Bender played in three games last season, starting two before an injury ended her season early. Up and coming guard Jordyn Dudley appeared in ten games last season as a freshman for the Golden Bears.

Frontcourt:

The anchor of the Golden Bears frontcourt is junior Anika Whiting. Last season Whiting was a Bulletin All-American Fourth Team, Daktronics All-America honorable mention, NSIC Player of the Year, Daktronics All-Central Region First Team, All-NSIC First Team, NSIC All-Academic, ranked third in the NSIC in scoring at 17.6 per game, 11th in the league in rebounding at 7.2 and eighth in blocked shots with 31, shot 53.1 percent from the field and 75.2 percent from the free throw line, finished second on the team with 43 steals, scored a career high 29 points against SMSU, scored in double figures in 29 of 30 games and scored 20+ points in ten games, finishing with seven double-doubles on the season. Whiting has been selected by the league



coaches as the NSIC South Division Preseason Player of the Year.

Kionda Nicks will also return to the frontcourt for her sophomore year in 2013-14. Nicks averaged 4.9 points and 4.9 rebounds per game in her first season as a member of the Golden Bears starting five. She also led the team with 53 blocked shots and shot 38.9 percent from the field along with 33 steals.

Forward Amanda Barton returns to the Golden Bears for the 2013-14 season. Last season Barton appeared in all 30 games. Amanda Barton was third on the team in blocked shots and shot 38.2 percent from the field and 26.1 percent from beyond the three point arch. Barton also scored in double digits in eight games last season.

Junior Jodi Batzel is returning after only appearing in one game last season due to injury, joined by fellow junior, Asha Knight who played in 11 games last season for the Golden Bears.

Coaching Staff:

The theme of continuity runs from the court to the sidelines. Head Coach Paul Fessler welcomes Assistant Coaches Kachine Alexander and Deb Hyde back to the bench for their second season. Additionally, Amanda Behnke will join the staff as a graduate assistant after a four-year career at Concordia as one of the top post players in Concordia basketball history.

Rankings:

Leading into the 2013 - 2014 season, the Golden Bears are ranked 23 overall in the Coaches Poll and 1 in the NSIC. Fessler says, "The rankings are fun, and the girls have fun with it." On the subject of the team's schedule Fessler said, "There are no easy games this season. The division looks tough from top to bottom."



Male Athlete of the Month

Cole Olstad

By Jake Loftus

One of the key characteristics that can be found in athletes is the love of competition, a characteristic shared by junior Concordia guard, Cole Olstad (#11) a native of Elgin, MN. Considering Olstad's family background—his older brother Clay is a teammate on the Concordia men's basketball team and his two older sisters, Candice and Kali, were standouts on the women's basketball team when they were enrolled here—Olstad grew up in a family that wasn't afraid of a little friendly competition.

"All of my family is very competitive," said Olstad. "My father, mother, brother, and two sisters do not like to lose and want to win at everything from athletics, cards, games, darts, fuse ball, etc. As the youngest in the family I can remember being the smallest for many years and trying very hard to compete with my older two sisters and brother athletically. They never let me win but instead made me play harder to keep up. I think being the youngest in the family makes you fight and play harder because if not you will keep losing at everything. Even at family gatherings for Thanksgiving, Easter, and Christmas and other times all of my relatives also are very competitive." Ganging up on the youngest Olstad isn't going to be so easy nowadays since he's the biggest in the family, standing at 6'5".

Olstad was a multi-sport talent at Plainview-Elgin-Millville High School, playing on the school's basketball, football, and baseball. However, he came to love one game over them all. "Basketball is a great game!" Olstad proclaimed. "Basketball has always been my favorite because it is a fast paced game with a lot of action for the spectators. The bigger the crowd and the more noise in the gym make the game even more exciting for me. There are so many aspects

of basketball that are fun." Another key to basketball is that it is a total team sport, meaning that it takes great communication between coaches and teammates to succeed, a key point of concern for the team, considering they added plenty of new players and coaches compared to last year.

However, Olstad is excited for the changes, "I feel the team this year for CU men's basketball has more depth on the team than my previous two seasons of basketball. I also like the new [members of the] coaching staff. They bring in new ideas, a lot of energy every day in practice and are pushing all of us to get better."

Yet we have to remember that college athletes are more importantly students who are primarily trying to get a degree, and while Olstad loves the game of basketball, he devotes much of his time to his studies. "I take my education very seriously," says Olstad. "As much as I love basketball and all athletics I realize that I am at college to earn a degree and eventually get a job and make a quality living and be a productive citizen." Olstad, a double-major in accounting and finance says that he does his best to get A's in his classes, and tries to balance his athletics and his studies. So far, he has succeeded, being named as a recipient of the Division II Athletic Directors Association Academic Achievement Award, named an NSIC All-Academic, and being placed

on the Dean's list multiple semesters during his Concordia career. He hopes to continue his education well into a post-graduate school to achieve his career goals. "I would like a job as an accountant after school and possibly, in a few years, run my own business and supervise several accountants that are working for me." Until then Olstad will continue to wow spectators playing for the Concordia Golden Bears Basketball team.



Female Athlete of the Month

Kayla Koenecke

By Tony Kohanek

Though the majority of fall sports have ended, Concordia volleyball is still carrying on towards that seventh championship and a place in history. After this season, the team is graduating five seniors, one of them being right side hitter and team leader Kayla Koenecke, a native of Delano MN.

This year has been a banner year for Koenecke as she leads the team in kills with 371, an average of 3.67 per game. Koenecke has also been the athlete of the week three times this year, which puts her at 13 for her career here at Concordia. She also leads the team in points and is second on the team in digs. Kayla Koenecke was a three-time letter winner at Delano High School and was named a Star Tribune Athlete of the Week and Kare 11 Player of the Week. She also received the Triple-A award for athletics. She had over 1,000 kills throughout her four years at DHS. When she was not busy on court she was busy studying and working her way onto the A honor roll and winning a student of a month award.

For most freshman coming into a program that has already won three consecutive championships, it's hard to make a mark. Koenecke did it,



however, by making the NCAA all-tournament team, the Daktronics all-region first team, and the NSIC first team. She had 354 kills during her freshman year, the most by a freshman since the 25-point era started. In her first collegiate match, she had 6 kills and no errors against Northern Kentucky.

Speaking on how this season is different than previous ones, Koenecke said, "This season has been different than past seasons because the five seniors have had to fill a different kind of leadership role. With the loss of four girls this past year, the seniors this year really had to step it up."

On her time here at CU, Koenecke said, "My past four years being on the CU volleyball team will be unforgettable. I have been a part of four totally unique teams and four unique seasons. As we move into playoffs, I am highly motivated to finish what this group of seniors started back in 2010 by closing this season out with a seventh National Championship. I am blessed and thankful to have been a part of a program with coaches and teammates that genuinely care for each other on and off the court."

Art Spotlight

Mohanie Singh

By Hayley Bahnemann

What do you think of when you think of graphic design? Do you think of the computer or a pad with paper? With today's technology, most people would probably vote for the computer. However, graphic design major Mohanie Singh prefers the paper and pencil approach.

"We still use print quite often so that is where I want to put my focus," Singh said. She would like to work for a graphic design firm or a company such as Target in their design department, but she is unsure of the specific job she would like to pursue, "I think I'd have to try stuff first to see exactly what I actually like," she said.

Growing up, Singh thought of art as a hobby, something she enjoyed that relaxed her, but she was constantly getting compliments on her art work. As she got older, she discovered that she had the talent needed to pursue an art career. "I always knew I wanted to do art in life," said Singh. "I think in second grade I wanted to be a doctor but after that it was art."

Singh had settled on graphic design as her major by the time she completed high school. "I knew I wanted to go into the design field because I wasn't very good at drawing or painting," Singh said. "At first I considered architecture, because it is incredible all the building designs we have. I took physics in high school and I wasn't a huge fan of it so I chose graphic design instead just because it fits

me. I'm a pretty organized person and I feel that in that job field that is one of the main things: to be able to organize the layout."

The graphic design majors have started an AIGA (American Institute of Graphic Arts) chapter for Concordia, similar to a graphic design club. The main purpose is to "go to events together and discuss which events to go to, mostly AIGA events would be the main thing, but also other events that are in the area.

In addition to attending events, AIGA also prepares students for Portfolio 101 where they show their portfolios to professionals to receive feedback. "The Concordia AIGA chapter is working on planning meetings where students who are attending Portfolio 101 can show their work to other design students to receive feedback on their work," said Singh. "Therefore, these students can make adjustments and create the best piece before showing it to a professional designer. Over all, we want to wow them." The AIGA chapter is also a way for the graphic design students to meet and get to know each other. There are around 20-30 graphic design majors in all, eight of whom are seniors.

Singh enjoys going to art events off campus and working with the young children at her work in Burnsville, as well as helping people with their design needs. If anyone has any interest in the AIGA chapter consider joining, or if you are thinking about majoring in graphic design, Singh is the person to talk to.



Wadjda

A Director's Hopeful Critique

By Anna Paulson

"You can't have children if you ride a bike! You'll lose your virginity." At her mother's words, ten-year-old Wadjda ducks her head, but her dark eyes hold an untamed spark of spirit. It is forbidden for girls to ride bikes in Saudi Arabia, within conservative Islamic culture that views it as undignified. But Wadjda remains determined to pursue her dream.

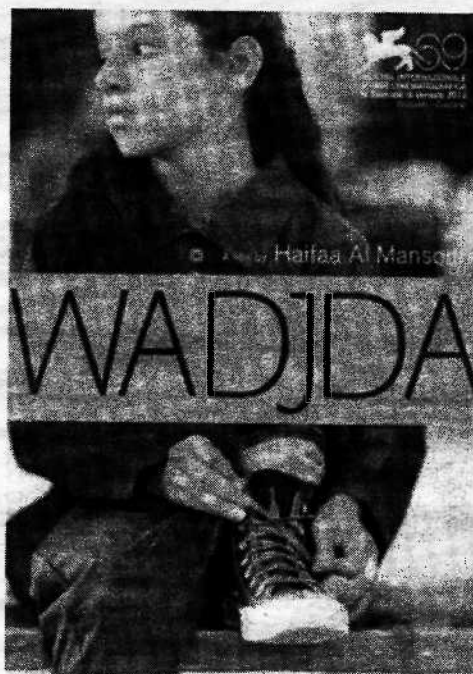
Right from the beginning of the film *Wadjda*, the vibrant culture of Saudi Arabia enfolded Landmark Lagoon Theater. I found myself leaning forward in my plush seat, captivated. Through Wadjda's eyes, I glimpsed both the great beauty and unfair heartache of a country dominated by men. At home, Wadjda sings in the kitchen with her mother and teases her neighbor and friend Abdullah. Yet at her strict, all-girl school, love songs and tapes of any kind are prohibited, as well as nail polish and bracelets. School is one of the only places girls may leave their faces uncovered, but even there, they cannot play within the sight of men. In one scene, Wadjda is even chided for laughing, told that, "A woman's voice is her nakedness."

Despite the cultural restrictions on women, *Wadjda* is full of fresh innocence and spunk. She wears self-decorated Converse sneakers, blasts the radio in her room, and exudes warmth and confidence. Although the

olive-green bike she desires costs 800 riyals (about \$213), Wadjda eagerly enters a school contest to memorize chapters of the Quran for a cash prize. Complicating matters is her mother's tenseness as she tries to convince her husband not to take a second wife—one able to bear him a son. After a surprising and heartwarming twist, the story left me with the realization of what Wadjda knew all along: riding a bicycle is freedom.

Adding to the interest of the film is its novelty. It is both the first full-length feature filmed entirely in Saudi Arabia, and the first film ever to be directed by a Saudi Arabian woman. It's as if in *Wadjda*, the director Haifaa Al Mansour mirrored herself: a passionate woman who believes in her own worth. While the movie's obvious theme of patriarchy can become tiresome, it is this exact weariness that Wadjda refuses to let bind her. Furthermore, it is the shocking truth. Even while filming her own movie, Mansour often had to give directions from inside a van. Thus, the movie is not only a beautiful expression, but also a monumental achievement.

As I left the theater both satisfied and intrigued, I couldn't help but smile as I recalled Wadjda's mother exclaiming to her daughter, "You? Shy? Ha, I only wish it were true!" But of course, we wouldn't want her any other way.



Nothing to Fear or Loathe

Panic! at the Disco's New Album *Too Weird to Live, Too Rare to Die!*

By Ashley Kuehl

Las Vegas band Panic! at the Disco recently released their fourth album titled *Too Weird to Live, Too Rare to Die!* The album debuted at #2 on Billboard in its first week of its release. What separates their current album from their past pieces of work is the influence of biographical meaning within their songs and how the variety of talents at the band's disposal work seamlessly together.

The story behind the album is just as interesting as the album itself. This is the second collaborative album that was made by lead singer/writer/guitarist Brendon Urie and drummer Spencer Smith since the departure of two original members Ryan Ross and John Walker. This album marked the first with the inclusion of new addition: backup singer and bassist Dallan Weekes, who originally joined the band as a temporary replacement for the band's third album in 2011.

The quality that differentiates this album from their past work is that no two songs sound the same. Each song is influenced by multiple genres, a prime example being the song "Miss Jackson", which fuses together hip-hop beats with pop/rock instrumentals. With this album, Panic! experiments with a wide variety of rock, pop, and synthesizing sounds unlike what the band has done previously. The structure for this album lies with the lyrical inspiration. It is the first in which the band

embraces their hometown: Las Vegas, known to some as Sin City. The lyrics are some of the most revealing that Urie has done compared to past work stating in an interview with *Entertainment Tonight*, "The lyrics are a bit more confessional so there's a lot of honesty there..."

I'm just talking about things that I've really gone through which was harder for me in the past." The lyrics surround the variations of love from casual one night stands ("Miss Jackson"), the confusion within bisexual relationships ("Girls/Girls/Boys"), being indulged in a destructive, harmful, and addictive relationship ("Nicotine") to the personal realization and transitioning to a mature committed, pre-marital bliss ("The End of All Things").

This album has a dance-edge mixed into it, but unlike their past sound, this album contains with it gems of musical (and lyrical)

influence of Weekes' past musical projects with his band, The Brobecks, which centered more on soft indie rock medleys.

To complement the release of their new album, Panic! at the Disco is heading out on tour in 2014 and will be playing in Minneapolis at the Skyway Theatre on January 21, 2014. Opening for them are indie bands The Colourist and X Ambassadors, both considered to be up-and-coming bands. Tickets are available on Ticketmaster for \$30.



Christmas at Concordia

By Meredith Wagner

Christmas time has some kind of special magic in it for just about everyone. Whether it's the gifts, the church services, or suffering through endless family dinners, we all can relate to and enjoy the most stressful, yet rewarding, time of the year.

Concordia students have their favorite parts of the holiday season. Senior Chris Anderson commented in his usual straight-up fashion: "Two words: live reindeer." Sophomore Andrea Timm had an extensive list of her favorite Christmas season activities: "Knitting, drinking hot chocolate, eating cookies, and listening to copious amounts of Michael Buble Christmas music." Madeline

Reding, a commuter, said that she "seconds the knitting and Buble" while also adding, that before more snow comes, "I think about how much fun it would be to rake up some piles of leaves and then jump in them. You know, like the sophisticated college students that we are."

Concordia itself has numerous holiday events. There's the Christmas Concert in the Buetow auditorium on December 6-8. Then there is the Christmas Vespers concert with Concert Band, Vox 9 (an 8-person vocal jazz group made up of Concordia students), and Gospel Choir in the Graebner Memorial Chapel on December 15. There is also the Winter Formal on the Saturday before finals.

The time has come. It's Christmas Eve, Michael Buble's Christmas album is crooning in the background, the smell of cookies is

wafting through the air, and you haven't gotten gifts for anyone. Well, besides your dad, who for unknown reasons is always content with a pair of wool socks. Where do you start? Once again, a few fellow students gave some advice on quality last minute gifts.

Sophomore Elliesha Klingberg talked about last minute gifts for romantic partners as she said: "If you seriously

don't know what to get for the other person, do a date night for each other, or just food is good. Everyone likes that. But I think I am getting Jordan [her boyfriend] a Game boy. The square kind!"

Senior Jay Weiler mentioned a few good places to purchase gifts. "I have a

few stores that work really well in a bind; most of them are similar to Patina, which have at least the semblance of creative, unique gifts," Weiler said. (Patina is near Concordia, on the corner of Snelling Avenue and Selby Avenue.) Weiler finished with a few ideas about gifts for everyone else in our lives: "For older members of my family, I have found that photo albums or frames with an actual picture in them work well in a pinch, while siblings, cousins, and friends usually don't have any qualms with gift cards to their favorite places."

Regardless of gifts, concerts, or food, one has to end an article about Christmas on a Linus to Charlie Brown-esque note. We all know that in reality, the holiday season is not all about material things. Jobs, school, and life in general is put on hold for a few precious days so we can savor time with our loved ones, whoever they may be.



Movie Review: *Catching Fire*

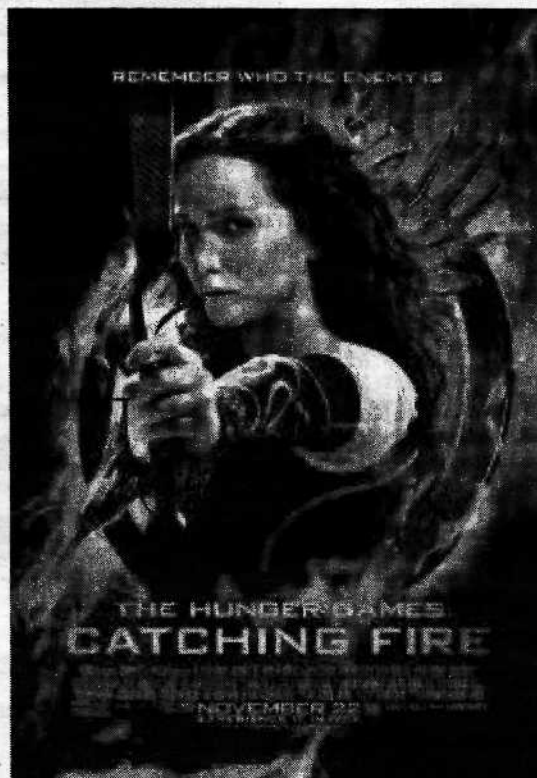
Why Extra Gore Deserves an Encore

By Lauren Erath

What challenge can overpower Katniss' (Jennifer Lawrence) and Peeta's (Josh Hutcherson) struggle in a death arena with a 1/24 chance of survival? Another death match—with 22 other successful survivors—for the Quarter Quell. And much more violence—full views of tribute deaths—no more of those queasy cameras that look away. Now the audience can relish all the ugliness as they sip on red ICEEs—because modern society is nothing like those crazy Capital people.

Catching Fire collects a full Sword for Cinematic Quality. The action scenes seemed realistic, succeeding through the use of seen murders rather than implied ones. The costumes grew fittingly outrageous, combining with the colorful arena to appease the eyes. Also, the animated creatures did not appear computer-based—which will ruin any story (*Twilight Saga: Breaking Dawn*).

For Engagement, *Catching Fire* earns another full Sword. The balance of action, comedy, and drama kept the plot pivoting and the audience interested. It included themes about true enemies and “apparent” ones, which provided a light snack for philosophical thought. Just dump it in with the popcorn.



In Acting, the movie receives half a Sword. The acting was believable, not exceptional. The characters, except Effie Trinket (Elizabeth Banks), showed no emotional development. Character changes challenge sequels, especially those like *Catching Fire* that connect the beginning and end of a series.

The film steals half a Sword for Plot, since the story is based on a novel rather than a script. Had the producers created the storyline, *Catching Fire* would win a full Sword. This still reveres the original plot, for the novel's story is unique. It unites several curious twists that further themes of limited time (before war and death) that viewers will not anticipate.

Catching Fire gains another half-Sword for Overall Performance. The movie lacked its own voice, relying on the novel's storyline and the audience's fondness for gore. Granted, viewers were grateful for the blood. It emphasized the horror of The Hunger Games. Had the film added its own perspective to the story, or deepened the significance of symbols and themes, it would have deserved a full Sword. With 3 ½ out of 5 Swords, *Catching Fire* is fantastically violent, and favors the original story over cinematic liberties.

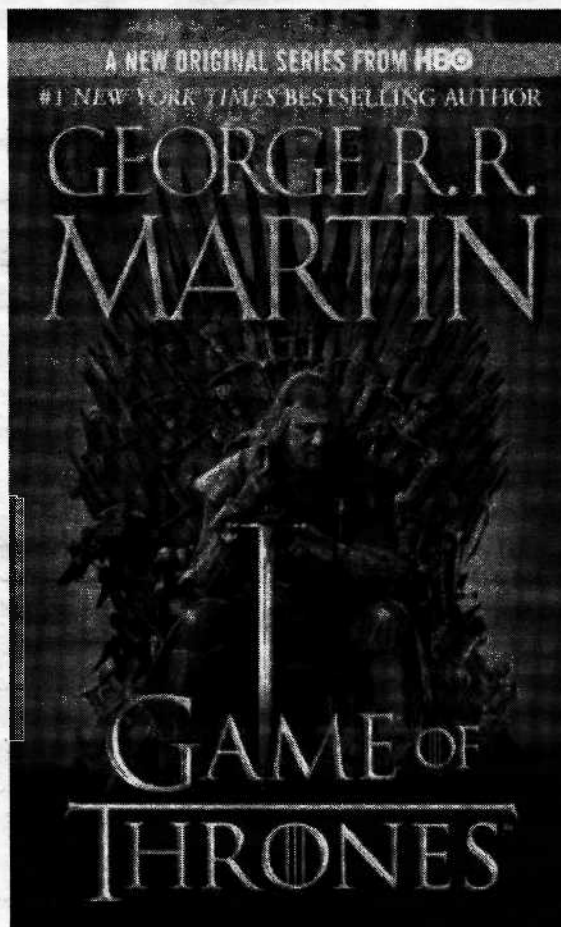
Song of Ice and Fire

Game of Thrones Book Review

By Tara Rupiper

Yes, “winter is coming”, but not with the changing of the seasons from fall to the cold winter chills. However, George R.R. Martin does create a chill and thrill all by himself with the creation of a vast and intense world that is set in *Game of Thrones*. Martin originally worked as a screen writer and producer on shows such as *The Twilight Zone* and *Beauty and the Beast*. In 1991, Martin turned down a different road and returned to writing and produced the first volume of A Song of Ice and Fire series. *Game of Thrones* was released in 1996 and is the first volume of a seven volume series, of which the first five have been written.

Game of Thrones is set in a version of medieval Europe, where the summers last decades and winters last multiple lifetimes. Here in Westeros, there are nine houses, although the book follows the Stark and Lannister families. All of the nine houses are fighting to the death for the iron throne that rules over the land of Westeros. The novel follows each family member of the Stark family and other characters, while they try to gain the throne, keep their families safe, and stay alive.



However, things are stirring up in Westeros. Things are coming to light that should have died years ago; families are getting split apart in the battle to gain the ever-so-popular iron throne. There is death, manipulation, and allies lost and gained. All of these houses participate in a game of thrones.

“Wow!” Is all I have to say. I can't wait to read the next in the series. I was blown away by the writing and the over-powering intensity that Martin does so well. I first heard about *Game of Thrones* through someone in one of my college classes, and I had heard that it was a series on HBO. This is exactly my type of book. You never know what you're going to get and what is going to come up next. I love the vastness of the world that Martin created; I would argue that it rivals J.R.R. Tolkien's Middle Earth. I am in love with the characters that bring such life to the novel; they are all captivating, especially Daenerys. I also like some of the wittiness that comes from Tyrion, who is said to be Martin himself.

Because of Martin's superb writing, I recommend *Game of Thrones*. This book is absolutely worth the read. It is well-done and I am definitely a fan.

Music Spotlight

Josh Billings

By Grace Orwick

Music major Josh Billings, a sophomore here at Concordia, started taking piano lessons when he was in the 2nd grade and continued until 10th grade, but he never stopped playing. He plays piano for Taize and Holden evening worships, and he was in Concordia's fall production of *The Drowsy Chaperone*. Billings is a member of the Handbell Ensemble and Jubilate choir. Billings really enjoys handbells and calls the rehearsals "the highlight of my week."

Billings decided Concordia was a good choice for him because Dr. David Mennicke really took the time to talk to him and he likes how small the campus is. "Dr. Mennicke really was a big influence on the reason why I came here," said Billings. "He talked to me a lot and let me sit in on one of the Christus choir rehearsals, and I also like how small the campus is. It's also close to home so I can go home anytime I want."

Billings and the Jubilate choir are currently in the process of getting ready for the Christmas concert. With the extra practices Billings has been very busy with school, but he still plays whenever he gets a chance. "I have a busy school schedule with lots of homework so I try to play the piano when I can," said Billings. "It's nice to sit down and play and forget about other things for a while."

When his parents suggested he take piano lessons, Billings thought it would be fun. At first he would practice for at least 30 minutes 5 days a week, now he sings or plays the piano whenever he has a small amount of time during the day. Something he would tell beginners is that they shouldn't give up, "It will be hard at first, but with a little bit of practice it will get easier," said Billings.

Some of the most challenging music to play is from composers like Beethoven, but he really enjoyed playing music by Dan Costes and Lorie Line. His fondest memory is when his high school



choir got the chance to tour France and Spain. "I had the chance to go to when I was a senior," he said. We sang in some really cool places and take in a new culture while we were there."

Music has been such a huge part of his life for so long and it is clear to see that Billings loves music; he wants to instill this love into others through his Music Education Major. Anyone who knows Billings or sees him perform can't help but see how hard he works to push himself while still enjoying what he does. If you missed him in the Christmas Concert you can see him at evening chapels or next semester in one of his various concerts. Finding something you are good at and love to do is what we as college students aspire to find and Billings has succeeded.

Theater Spotlight

Erika Bjornstad

By Hayley Bahnemann



Adding a minor to an already full courseload is not a foreign concept to many college students. Many people add a minor to their degree when they can't decide what they love more or what will be easier to find in the job market. Some people even get lucky and find a way to incorporate both their major and minor into one dream job, and junior Erika Bjornstad is no different.

Bjornstad is a Christian ministry major wanting to become a DCE (Director of Christian Education), but has also been working towards a theatre minor. While growing up in Pennsylvania, Bjornstad was involved in writing Christmas pageants through her church, and then started acting in shows when she was a senior in high

school. Around this same time she decided that she wanted to become a DCE, which was her only major when she started school.

After her first year at Concordia, Bjornstad started to think about adding a theatre minor to her course load because it is something she has always loved to do and that it was fun. Her grandpa was very supportive of her decision and he even told her that "the theatre minor was a really good idea, not just the fun aspect of it, but that you can bring the two of those together and have a theatre ministry."

After deciding to put her two passions together she discovered a theatre-ministry program called ACTS (Acclaiming Christ through Theatre and Service), which was perfect for her, but would require transferring to Concordia University, Irvine next semester. After thinking it through, Bjornstad has decided to take the opportunity to transfer to Irvine, where she can easily combine her major and minor to create something different and new. "Work with what God has given you," Bjornstad said.

Even though this is her last semester here Bjornstad is still busy with extra-curricular activities. She is involved in Jubilate choir, helped backstage for *The Drowsy Chaperone*, and will be directing a One Act, which performs on Dec. 13 in the Black Box theatre. Bjornstad's play is entitled *The Curious Savage*. Anyone interested in theatre should come and see the directing class's one act shows on Dec. 13 and 14. Four different shows will perform every night, so come to both if you can. Bjornstad would also like to leave a "big shout out to everyone who has made my time here awesome, especially those in the theatre department."

THE SWORD

Sudoku

1								
	2			6	7	8	9	
3				4				
	4			3				
				2	1	6	7	
	6							8
		7						4
	8			9	3	7	2	
		9						

Dec. 2013

ARTS AND VARIETY 15

Christmas Wordsearch

By Maddie Austin

Jingle
Vixen
Mistletoe
Snowflake
Elf
Santa
Troll

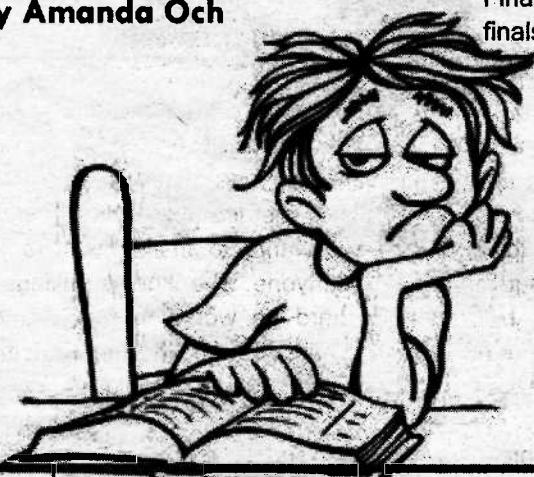


Nutcracker
Cookies
Presents
Sugarplum
Cardinal
Sleigh
Mittens
Mint
Scrooge
Poinsettia
Carolyn
Evergreen
Wolf
Boots
Ski

e	k	o	s	n	g	n	p	t	s	s	n	m
p	f	c	e	e	m	t	o	w	e	l	x	u
c	o	l	g	n	i	l	o	r	a	c	p	l
h	g	i	e	l	s	t	n	e	s	e	r	p
m	i	s	n	u	t	c	r	a	c	k	e	r
s	i	l	k	s	i	n	r	i	a	a	v	a
c	o	o	k	i	e	s	i	v	r	a	e	g
r	r	s	n	e	t	t	i	m	d	i	r	u
o	t	a	e	l	o	x	t	f	i	l	g	s
o	g	r	t	g	e	n	s	i	n	p	r	t
g	o	t	s	n	o	w	f	l	a	k	e	o
e	e	t	a	i	a	n	w	o	l	f	e	o
a	c	s	c	j	l	s	n	t	l	t	n	b

Stress-Free Finals

By Amanda Och



Finals can be an overwhelming and down-right terrifying experience. But with hard work and the right preparation, finals no longer need to be so stressful. Here are a few tips to help you get ready and handle next week's final week:

- 1) Start early and begin preparing and studying as soon as possible. The first thing to figure out is what type of final your professor will give: comprehensive or non-comprehensive, big ideas or specific details.
- 2) Focus on what you dislike or don't understand first because chances are that you will already do well in the classes you enjoy.
- 3) Also focus on the notes from class and use the textbook as a support tool because your professor has already narrowed down what they think is important for you to know.
- 4) Take advantage of office hours and ask questions or review with the professor.
- 5) Maintain healthy habits of eating, sleeping, and exercising. It may sound cliché, but it is told time and time again because it really does affect how well you do on a test.
- 6) Stay calm and breathe. A lot of the stress of a final comes from panicking and from constantly looking at the clock.

	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY
8:00	8:00 - 10:00 For 8:00 MWF classes	8:00 - 10:00 For 8:00 TR classes	8:00 - 10:00 For 9:15 MWF classes	8:00 - 10:00 For 9:40 TR classes
9:00				
10:00	CHAPEL	CHAPEL	CHAPEL	CHAPEL
11:00	11:00 - 1:00 For 11:35 MWF classes	11:00 - 1:00 For 12:00 TR classes	11:00 - 1:00 For 12:50 MWF classes	11:00 - 1:00 For 1:40 TR classes
12:00				
1:00				
2:00	1:30 - 3:30 For 3:20 MWF classes	1:30 - 3:30 For 3:20 TR classes	1:30 - 3:30 For 2:05 MWF classes	
3:00				
4:00		4:00 - 6:00 For 6:00 TR classes	4:00 - 6:00 For 6:00 MW classes	4:00 - 6:00 For 6:00 R only classes
5:00				
6:00				
7:00	7:00 - 9:00 For 6:00 M only classes	7:00 - 9:00 For classes: 6:00 T Only 8:00 TR	7:00 - 9:00 For 6:00 W only classes	
8:00				



ARTS AND VARIETY

Dec. 2013

THE SWORD

December Wordsearch

By Kayla Blair

Advent
Angels
Baby
Candies
Candy Cane
Carol
Christmas
December
Donkey
Family
Frankincense
Gold
Joy
Lights
Manger



By Maddie Austin

